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REGENTS RELEASE REPORT ON REDESIGNED TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Baton Rouge: The Louisiana Board of Regents today moved a step forward in overhauling teacher education programs by releasing the findings on the status of redesigned teacher education programs.

"We are pleased that this report provides constructive guidance for all of our colleges of education who are in the process of redesigning their programs to better prepare future classroom teachers. Louisiana is making serious strides in education reform and this is a cornerstone of our overall initiative," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie.

A team of six evaluators reviewed undergraduate, masters alternative certification and practitioner teacher programs at 17 public and private colleges in Louisiana. The evaluators were charged with reviewing the redesign plans, providing feedback to universities regarding their proposals, and making recommendations to university system boards, the Board of Regents, and BESE relative to acceptance of the redesigned plans. The primary responsibility of the external evaluators was to identify quality programs that should be recommended for state approval and provide recommendations to universities to enhance all programs in the state.

In their written report, evaluators noted the dedication of the higher education community to this overall effort, "Each university's commitment to enhance teacher quality and improve student learning was evident during every interview. It is anticipated that this level of commitment will have a very positive impact upon the future of education in Louisiana. Some universities used the flexibility provided by the State to restructure their programs in new and innovative ways that will be of national interest."

Evaluators' recommendations were categorized as follows:

1. Recommended for Approval: Programs that exhibited many strengths and had no stipulations

(more)

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2. Recommended for Approval with Stipulations: Programs that had areas in need of further development.

Staff of the Louisiana Department of Education also examined all proposed programs to determine if they met new state certification requirements. If certification requirements were not met, areas that must be addressed for program approval were identified.

Redesigned programs recommended for approval without stipulation that also meet State Department of Education certification requirements are:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| La Tech University | Undergraduate 4-8 |
| Nicholls State University | Undergraduate 4-8 |
| Our Lady of Holy Cross | Masters Alternative Certification (Grades 1-6) |
| LSU | Undergraduate 7-12 pilot |
| Southeastern | Undergraduate PK-3 Undergraduate 4-8 |

All universities were required to submit their proposals by April 30, 2002 in order to be included in this review cycle. External evaluators assessed the written proposals and conducted interviews with key university officials and faculty in their review process.

In addition, evaluators provided a list of overall recommendations suggesting targeted improvements in the areas of content preparation, field-based experiences, assessment and evaluation of pre-service and new teachers and reading /mathematics preparation.

The programs reviewed in this cycle will be presented to the institution's management board at the appropriate time. The programs will then be presented to the Board of Regents and BESE for their approval. All redesigned programs must be approved by January 1, 2003.

For a review of the entire report, visit the Board of Regents website at www.regents.state.la.us then link to academic affairs, teacher education initiatives and click on "Recommendations of the External Evaluators."

The redesign of teacher education programs is a major recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Teacher Quality, a collaborative effort by the Governor's Office, Board of Regents, and BESE.